



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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July 2020 Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2020; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

Due to the State of Emergency and to adhere to social distancing measures, the bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was not held in the Ilchester room on the 2nd floor at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043 but was conducted as a virtual web meeting/conference call. All cases are public meetings unless otherwise indicated. All inquiries should be made to: 410-313-2350.

Members Present: Liz Larney, Chair; Fred Dorsey; Roberta Kelly; Chip Plitt

Staff Present: Beth Burgess; Kaitlyn Clifford

Public: Wayne Davis; Joel Hurewitz

CPAB Business

- Ms. Larney asked if the members present had read the May 2020 minutes, and if there were any corrections or a motion to approve them. Mr. Dorsey, Ms. Kelly and Mr. Plitt said there were no corrections. Mr. Dorsey moved to approve the January 2020 minutes. Mr. Plitt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

General Topics

The Board discussed membership and the current vacancies. There was discussion about Melinda Farnsworth and where the Administration is with her application. Ms. Burgess and Ms. Larney had been informed that Mr. Bennett relocated outside the county boundaries but per Howard County Code, Mr. Bennett is still eligible to serve on the board if he chooses.

Ms. Larney asked if there were any cemetery plans to review at the meeting. Ms. Burgess said there were no cemetery plans for review. Ms. Larney asked the members if they had any updates to share with the Board at this time.

Ms. Kelly said she learned of three cemeteries and was not sure if the Board had them on inventory. The first being a black cemetery off Harmony Lane. Ms. Burgess said that there were no cemeteries on Harmony Lane per the inventory but on Woodsong Court across the street there is #47-7 which references a black cemetery formally on located on Harmony Lane.

Ms. Kelly inquired about the second cemetery, a black cemetery related to the Dorsey Family. Ms. Kelly said she heard about the cemetery from Janey Kelsey. Mr. Dorsey said that Ms. Kelsey is his cousin and the cemetery is located in Anne Arundel County. Mr. Dorsey said Ms. Kelsey is moving out of the area and is trying to negotiate accommodations with Caleb Gould. The cemetery is located on the old Contee property and is extremely hard to get in and out of the property because of the long gate. Ms. Kelsey has discussed with Tina Simmons from the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites.

Ms. Kelly said the third cemetery was found by a friend in Marriottsville. She said she would contact Ms. Burgess when she has an address for the location of the cemetery. Ms. Burgess said she would send Ms. Kelly the master list of the cemetery inventory.

Ms. Kelly said the MDOT SHA cemetery inventory is online and Alexander Kim is the consultant for MDOT for the inventory. Ms. Kelly said she would send the information of how to access the inventory to Ms. Burgess.

Mr. Dorsey asked Mr. Plitt about the status of the River Hill headstone repairs that Mr. Plitt had inquired about. Mr. Plitt said he was still working on it and estimated it would be completed in the next few months.

Mr. Dorsey said he had been speaking to Ms. Burgess about St. Stephen's cemetery where a neighbor had been dumping trash on the church property. Ms. Burgess said she had sent an email out to the Board, James McAfee had alerted Ms. Burgess to the concern. The Board had responded to the email with some laws and suggestions to address the dumping. Ms. Kelly asked if Fire Codes 17.104, 17.105 or 17.106 could be used to enforce the no dumping request on the property. Ms. Burgess said that the Zoning did not think Fire Codes could be used to prevent the dumping but shared that information with the gentleman saying he would need to contact the Fire Department directly.

Mr. Dorsey said there was an email from the Historical Society that came to Ms. Burgess about clean up to Cook's cemetery in Oakland Mills. Mr. Dorsey said his concern was if the individual had approached the Village Center before attempting any cleanup in the cemetery. Ms. Burgess said she did not believe so but there have been a lot of inquiries about cemetery clean ups from neighbors.

Mr. Dorsey said he was forwarded an email from Ms. Burgess from a neighbor in Valley Meade about Arcadia Cemetery. Mr. Dorsey said he would be corresponding with the neighbor later this week to find out about the gentleman's concerns.

Ms. Burgess shared the inquiry about the Rhine Stone behind the Pine Orchard liquor parking lot. A descendant expressed concern to the County Executive that the location was not appropriate for burials and they did not have access to burials. Ms. Burgess said she was asked to send information on the location to the County Executive's office but there has been no additional contact since she responded.

Ms. Burgess reported that the Howard County Fair has been canceled due to COVID-19 so there will be no Hands on History outreach in August.

Guilford Quarry Cemetery Presentation

Mr. Davis said this is a registered cemetery, registered by Beulah Buckner in the early 1980s. The site name is officially Slave Burial site but it is also a family burial site. Mr. Davis wants to know how Ms. Buckner had this information and believes she found this information from the Ellicott City Colored School. Mr. Davis said he is going to visit the Ellicott City Colored School when it reopens to look through records to confirm this assertion.

The cemetery is located on Route 32. It is a protected area and not in any danger of development. Mr. Davis said SHA determined the access of the site in February 2018 which was difficult due to overgrowth. Mr. Davis said due to several volunteers he was able to get the site cleaned up and as of June 2020 it was walkable.

Mr. Davis said initially SHA and others estimated 80 burials on the site, but it is now believed there are substantially more of likely enslaved people indicated by the field stones and granite. He has been calling it the site the Guilford Quarry Cemetery because it is 600 feet away from the quarry and its possible that the bulk of

people in the cemetery were in slave quarters in the quarry. That information is still being researched for accuracy.

Mr. Davis said the burials are all from 1829 to 1838 and belong to Marlow, Carroll, and Young families. Mr. Davis discussed the relationships between the families found on site. He said there are believed to be at least 2 or 3 parts to the cemetery but said these findings also had to be researched for more accuracy.

Mr. Davis said that Howard Research and Development Corp (HRD) is the current owners of the cemetery and would like to give the cemetery property to Howard County Recreation and Parks (DRP). The Columbia Association (CA) has also expressed interest in maintaining the cemetery however HRD is more interested in giving it to DRP. DRP and CA may not have the budget to cover the requirements for maintaining the cemetery due to COVID-19 budget impacts. Ruppert Management Company owns the parking lot accessing the cemetery and there is an access easement for whoever owns the cemetery.

Mr. Davis said Chesapeake Search Dogs conducted a training session in March 2020, the search dogs are trained to find the most concentrated scent of human remains. It was a little difficult for the dogs but they did pick up a scent of the remains throughout the cemetery and especially on the SHA fence line and SHA right-of-way. The trainers discovered a headstone, only an edge was exposed; it was the headstone of John Carroll.

SHA worked to clear the site in 2018. Tina Simmons, Dennis Green and Kelly Palich from UPAG helped to clear the site in 2019. Archaeologist Jim Gibbs will conduct a Total Station mapping of the cemetery this summer. Mr. Davis said stones are still being searched. Mr. Davis said the hope is to overlay the ground penetrating radar (GPR) for where the stones are located and do GPS for the rest of the cemetery. The initial GPR has indicated a lot of activity about four feet under the surface. Mr. Davis concluded the presentation saying there is still ongoing research and will be looking to work with the nearby plantation owner for help with the research.

Mr. Dorsey asked what other two cemeteries that HRD owns. Mr. Davis said he knew of one in Owen Brown but did not know where the other is located. Mr. Davis assumed that HRD is trying to get rid of all three cemeteries at the same time. Mr. Dorsey expressed frustration with HRD for the state in which they left the cemetery. The Board and Mr. Davis discussed new potential ownership and worst-case scenarios if HRD could not find a new owner for the site, such as putting a fence around the property and allowing no access.

Ms. Larney asked if there was any other discussion or matters for the Board to examine. No Board member had anything additional to say.

Mr. Dorsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020.